Thomas A. Edison Papers Digital Edition Edison-Miller

Family Records

Family Records Series, Part IV

[FC002-F] Edison, Thomas A., Jr. (1907-1910)

Family Records Series -- Correspondence

Title
[FC002-F] Edison, Thomas A., Jr. (1907-1910)

Description
This folder contains letters from Thomas A. Edison, Jr. (1876-1935) to his stepmother, Mina Miller Edison, and his father, Thomas A. Edison. Six letters, covering the years 1907-1910, have been selected. Most of the letters were written from Burlington, New Jersey, where Thomas and Beatrice Edison were living on a mushroom farm that the inventor had purchased for his son in 1906. The letters contain numerous expressions of affection for Mina Edison and other family members, as well as repeated requests for her to visit the farm. There are also references to the health problems of Thomas and Beatrice, as well as to the ear operation that the elder Edison underwent in February 1908. Other topics mentioned in the letters include declining markets for New Jersey farm produce, Thomas Jr.'s interest in painting, and the health of his stepaunt Mary E. Miller, who had suffered a nervous breakdown in 1909 and was recovering at the Edison home in Fort Myers.

Additional letters written by Thomas A. Edison, Jr. during the period 1899-1910 can be found in the Charles Edison Fund Collection and in the "Edison, T.A. -- Family" folders in the Part IV Document File Series. Some of the letters in the CEF Collection, scanned from the microfilm, are now in the possession of the Thomas Edison National Historical Park.

URL

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/folder/FC002-F

Identifier

FC002-F

Type

Family Records

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Is Part Of

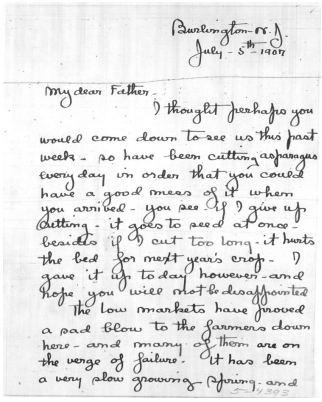
Family Records Series -- Correspondence

Alternative Title

Edison, Thomas A., Jr. (1907-1910)

Has Version

Archive.org Viewer, Microfilm Series Reel 221


Burlington-N.J.
July - 5th - 1907

My dear Father -

I thought perhaps you would come down to see us this past week - so have been cutting asparagus every day in order that you could have a good mess of it when you arrived - you see if I give up cutting - it goes to seed at once - besides if I cut too long - it hurts the bed for next year's crop - I gave it up to day however - and hope you will not be disappointed

The low markets have proved a sad blow to the farmers down here - and many of them are on the verge of failure - It has been a very slow growing spring - and

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[FC002AAA], Letter from Thomas Alva Edison, Jr. to Thomas Alva Edison, July 5th, 1907

Title
[FC002AAA], Letter from Thomas Alva Edison, Jr. to Thomas Alva Edison, July 5th, 1907

Author
Edison, Thomas Alva, Jr

Recipient
Edison, Thomas Alva

Mentioned

- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Edison, Beatrice Heyzer (Mrs Thomas A. Jr)

Date
1907-07-05

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- General economic and business conditions
- Agriculture

Folder ID
FC002-F

Microfilm ID
221:733

Document ID
FC002AAA

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/FC002AAA

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Timestamp
5 July 1907

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Burlington-N. J.
July - 5th - 1907

My dear Father -

I thought perhaps you would come down to see us this past week - so have been cutting asparagus every day in order that you could have a good mess of it when you arrived - you see if I give up cutting - it goes to seed at once - besides if I cut too long - it hurts the bed for next year's crop - I gave it up today however - and hope you will not be disappointed

The low markets have proved a sad blow to the farmers down here - and many of them are on the verge of failure - It has been a very slow growing Spring - and

visit a pleasant one To be sure

when the warm weather jumped on us - everything seemed to ripened at once - the result was - the markets were simply overloaded - Only yesterday - Ten freight trains of twenty cars each packed with peas from South Jersey - were thrown into barges - hauled to sea and emptied - What show has a farmer? The reason for this condition of affairs - is very easily seen by one who is in this line of business - Peas were high last year - so everybody planted peas this year - the result is obvious - Although corn is not ripe as yet - I have no doubt but what the market will treat this crop as it did peas - and for the same reason - The farmers who have not failed or who have not already jumped in the

Delaware - will not plant a single pea - nor a hill of corn - next year -

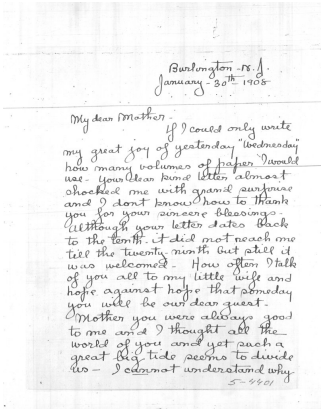
although I have quite a crop of peas - if I shipped them - I would lose money so I can only leave them rot on the ground - except for our own use and what I want for seed - The market for spinach - radishes and lettuce is so low that I would lose twenty cents on every basket I shipped - However the financial loss that I may suffer is a mere nothing to the health I have gained - and that was what I was after - more than the money -

Well Father come down soon - for I would like to see you and talk with you - and my wife - and I will try and make your visit a pleasant one - To be sure

our home is simple - but we have 4
three good meals a day - and
plenty of good fresh air - this
is about all we can offer - but
any man ought to be perfectly
satisfied with that -

affectionately your son
Tom

I am going to ship mother - a ½ barrel
basket of peas - one of lettuce and
one of beans - If you think of it
father - ask her to let me know
if they were received - and in
what condition - There is no
reason why you cannot have
all the vegetables you need - the
only thing in the way is to how
to get them fresh to you in
Orange - so if mother will let
me know - if they arrived O.K. I
will try and keep the house supplied
as long as I have anything to send - Tom


Burlington N.J.
January 30th 1908

My dear Mother

If I could only write my great joy of yesterday "Wednesday" how many volumes of paper I would use. Your dear kind letter almost shocked me with grand surprise and I dont know how to thank you for your sincere blessings. Although your letter dates back to the tenth it did not reach me till the twenty ninth but still it was welcomed. How often I talk of you all to my little wife and hope against hope that someday you will be our dear guest. Mother you were always good to me and I thought all the world of you and yet such a great big tide seems to divide us — I cannot understand why

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[FC002AAB], Letter from Thomas Alva Edison, Jr. to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, January 30th, 1908

Title
[FC002AAB], Letter from Thomas Alva Edison, Jr. to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, January 30th, 1908

Author
Edison, Thomas Alva, Jr

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Edison, Madeleine
- Edison, Beatrice Heyzer (Mrs Thomas A. Jr)

Date
1908-01-30

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Visual arts
- Agriculture

Folder ID
FC002-F

Microfilm ID
221:736

Document ID
FC002AAB

URL
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Timestamp
30 January 1908

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Burlington - N. J.
January - 30th - 1908

My dear Mother -

If I could only write my great joy of yesterday "Wednesday" how many volumes of paper I would use - Your dear kind letter almost shocked me with grand surprise and I dont know how to thank you for your sincere blessings - Although your letter dates back to the tenth - it did not reach me till the twenty-ninth but still it was welcomed - How often I talk of you all to my little wife and hope against hope that someday you will be our dear guest - Mother you were always good to me and I thought all the world of you and yet such a great big tide seems to divide us - I cannot understand why

5-4401

we are not closer - Heavens knows I have tried so hard to right all the wrongs I have ever done and no man could lead a more sober honest upright or domesticated life than I do and yet not one of my dear family will come and see me - I read where Madeline goes to College in Philadelphia and I think how close she is around us and what a young lady she has grown to be - My little wife was a College student and how often she has hoped to meet Madeline and tender her a little College luncheon here at our home where she "my wife" has made everything look so tasty and cozy - But of all Mother she would rather have a visit from you - I would so love to see you - you would give me new strength and ambition for you all are the medicine I most need -

I am so proud that our long

about all the graves - James and Dave - If I thought I could come up to your idea

enstrangement did not tempt you to cast aside my little paintings - and soon I am going to paint you a picture and let you put it beside my work of younger days. and let me know mother of the comparison. I wonder how you look - couldn't you spare me some sort of a Photograph of yourself? you dont know how much I would prize it. I haven't had a Photograph of myself in years. but I dont think I have changed much - except I might be some little thinner. If you thought you would visit me - I would meet you quietly at Burlington or Stevens Station which is a flag station and closer to our home and make you comfortable during your stay. Nearly all our furniture was made by myself - and about all the pictures - frames and all.

If I thought I could come up to your idea

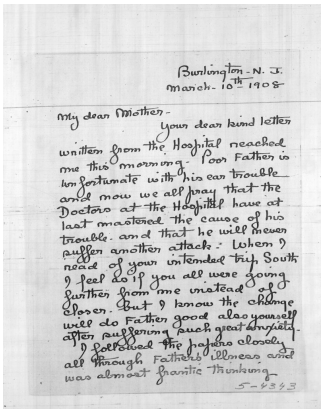
of a painter - I would devote weeks and weeks on one picture - but my distressing and discouraging headaches are too severe for my nerves - I am out doors a great deal trying to get my farm in order for early Spring - as I have great hopes of success this year - on account of the help I will have from my horses - By the way mother - I sent you some few little things from the farm last Summer but never heard from any one whether you received them or not -

Now please write me again - it is so comforting to know you are all well and you are still my mother -

With much love to you and all - believe me as ever

Affectionately your son

Thomas


Burlington-N. J.
March- 10-th 1908

My dear Mother-
Your dear kind letter
written from the Hospital reached
me this morning. Poor Father is
unfortunate with his ear trouble
and now we all pray that the
Doctors at the Hospital have at
last mastered the cause of his
trouble. and that he will never
suffer another attack. When I
read of your intended trip, South
I feel so if you all were going
further from me instead of
closer. But I know the change
will do Father good also yourself
after suffering such great anxiety.
I followed the papers closely
all through Father's illness and
was almost frantic thinking

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[FC002AAC], Letter from Thomas Alva Edison, Jr. to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, March 10th, 1908

Title
[FC002AAC], Letter from Thomas Alva Edison, Jr. to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, March 10th, 1908

Author
Edison, Thomas Alva, Jr

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Edison, Beatrice Heyzer (Mrs Thomas A. Jr)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1908-03-10

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE health
- Travel (TAE and family)

Folder ID
FC002-F

Microfilm ID
221:739

Document ID
FC002AAC

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/FC002AAC

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Timestamp
10 March 1908

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Burlington - N. J.
March - 10th - 1908

My dear Mother -

Your dear kind letter written from the Hospital reached me this morning - Poor Father is unfortunate with his ear trouble and now we all pray that the Doctors at the Hospital have at last mastered the cause of his trouble - and that he will never suffer another attack - When I read of your intended trip South I feel as if you all were going further from me instead of closer - But I know the change will do Father good also yourself after suffering such great anxiety - I followed the papers closely all through Father's illness and was almost frantic thinking

5-4343

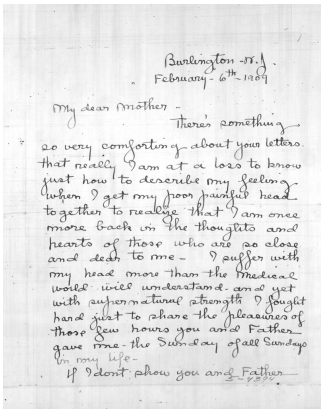
something might happen him. before I would have time to reach him. This would be too cruel and I feel confident you would never let him pass away without getting me word - I live here under the name of Willard thinking for a little while I might live down my past and then for the sake of my wife as well as myself start my life anew.

I dont know how to write all the good luck I wish you and Father and trust that Providence will see you all safely to your destination - preserve you and bring you back in safety and good health. Sometimes think of me and write me and perhaps after awhile you will learn to think of me as I am today and grant me my greatest pleasure. your visit down here -

My prayers for Father's

speedy recovery and good health -
With love and affection - as ever
your son
Tom

Please return to
Post Master


Burlington N.J.
February 6th 1909

My dear Mother -

There's something so very comforting about your letters that really I am at a loss to know just how to describe my feeling when I get my poor painful head together to realize that I am once more back in the thoughts and hearts of those who are so close and dear to me - I suffer with my head more than the medical world will understand and yet with supernatural strength I fought hard just to share the pleasures of those few hours you and Father gave me - the Sunday of all Sundays in my life -

If I don't show you and Father

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[FC002AAD], Letter from Thomas Alva Edison, Jr. to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, February 6th, 1909

Title
[FC002AAD], Letter from Thomas Alva Edison, Jr. to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, February 6th, 1909

Author
Edison, Thomas Alva, Jr

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Edison, Beatrice Heyzer (Mrs Thomas A. Jr)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1909-02-06

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Travel (TAE and family)
- Property
- Health and medicine

Folder ID
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Microfilm ID
221:742

Document ID
FC002AAD

URL
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Timestamp
6 February 1909

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Burlington - N. J.
February - 6th - 1909

My dear Mother -

There's something so very comforting about your letters that really I am at a loss to know just how to describe my feeling when I get my poor painful head together to realize that I am once more back in the thoughts and hearts of those who are so close and dear to me - I suffer with my head more than the Medical World will understand - and yet with supernatural strength I fought hard just to share the pleasures of those few hours you and Father gave me - the Sunday of all Sundays in my life -

If I dont show you and Father

more thought and loyalness - ito because of this dreadful disease of my head - for my heart constantly surrounds you both - Now to thank you for your sweet kindness in sending me the fruit - it was more than kindness itself for you to send it - particularly just at this season - when every moment of your time must actually be bought - but I do hope you have trust enough in me to appreciate how much I will enjoy every portion of the fruit - and will eat it all to the toast of your long life - Beatrice (my little wife) is so pleased to know of your kind remarks concerning the tastefulness of our little home - because of the great comparison between "Glenmont" and "Pine Knew" (our home) your words "sweet and cozy" is indeed very flattering - Tomorrow Dr Blair says I might walk about the grounds -

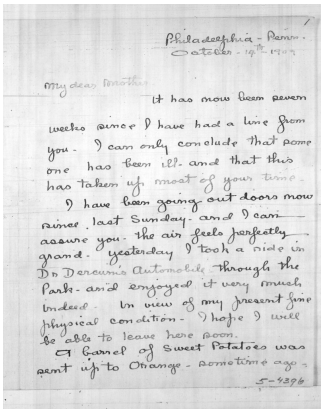
and in this way get myself steady again- as after these attacks I am always very dizzy- I so hope nothing will obstruct your plans in starting your beautiful trip to Florida on the date you marked - for I know only too well what it means to Father's health and to your rest of the many duties thrust upon you.

Write me whenever you get an opportunity and dont forget mother - my kindest thoughts and prayer follow you constantly -

With love to you and all - believe me

affectionately your son

Tom -



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[FC002AAE], Letter from Thomas Alva Edison, Jr. to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, October 14th, 1909

Title
[FC002AAE], Letter from Thomas Alva Edison, Jr. to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, October 14th, 1909

Author
Edison, Thomas Alva, Jr

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Date
1909-10-14

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Agriculture
- Health and medicine

Folder ID
FC002-F

Microfilm ID
221:744

Document ID
FC002AAE

URL
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Timestamp
14 October 1909

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Philadelphia - Penn -
October - 14th - 1909

My dear Mother

It has now been seven weeks since I have had a line from you - I can only conclude that some one has been ill - and that this has taken up most of your time -

I have been going out doors now since last Sunday - and I can assure you - the air feels perfectly grand - yesterday I took a ride in Dr Dercum's Automobile through the Park - and enjoyed it very much indeed - In view of my present fine physical condition - I hope I will be able to leave here soon.

A barrel of Sweet Potatoes was sent up to Orange - sometime ago -

Have you received them as yet?

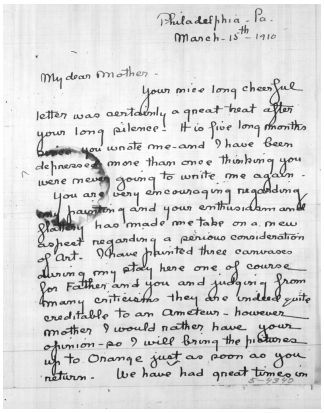
With much love to you and all - and hoping to hear from you soon - believe me - always. -

Your affectionate Son
Tom

x

Beatrice sends her love -

Your silence has worried me Mother more than you will ever know -



Philadelphia - Pa -
March - 15th - 1910

My dear Mother -

Your nice long cheerful letter was certainly a great treat after your long silence! It is five long months [redacted] you wrote me - and I have been depressed more than once thinking you were never going to write me again -

You are very encouraging regarding my painting and your enthusiasm and flattery has made me take on a new subject regarding a serious consideration of art. I have painted three canvases during my stay here one of course for Father and you and judging from many criticisms they are indeed quite creditable to an amateur - however mother I would rather have your opinion - so I will bring the pictures up to Orange just as soon as you return - We have had great times on

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[FC002AAF], Letter from Thomas Alva Edison, Jr. to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, March 15th, 1910

Title
[FC002AAF], Letter from Thomas Alva Edison, Jr. to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, March 15th, 1910

Author
Edison, Thomas Alva, Jr

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)
- Miller, Mary Emily
- Edison, Beatrice Heyzer (Mrs Thomas A. Jr)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1910-03-15

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Travel (TAE and family)
- Visual arts
- Labor
- Property
- Health and medicine

Folder ID
FC002-F

Microfilm ID
221:746

Document ID
FC002AAF

URL
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15 March 1910

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Philadelphia - Pa.
March - 15th - 1910

My dear Mother -

Your nice long cheerful letter was certainly a great treat after your long silence - It is five long months since you wrote me - and I have been depressed more than once thinking you were never going to write me again -

You are very encouraging regarding my painting and your enthusiasm and flattery has made me take on a new aspect regarding a serious consideration of Art - I have painted three canvases during my stay here one of course for Father and you and judging from many criticisms they are indeed quite creditable to an Ameteur - however mother I would rather have your opinion - so I will bring the pictures up to Orange just as soon as you return - We have had great times in

5-4340

Philadelphia with the strike - they certainly tied things up for the pedestrians -

Beatrice is having a great time with an abscess which has seated itself between the small bones of the nose and the upper gum - two Doctors - Dr Carpenter and Dr Jameson are faithfully interested in the curing of it but up to this writing have only succeeded in finding its (abscess) location - The Plumber from home writes that the radiators are busted in such a manner as to cause the placing of entire new radiators - I'm glad Mother dear that Father and all are so enjoying your much needed rest and vacation and I pray you will all maintain solid health and stay in this world for many years to come - I am glad to see Spring come in - as I am anxious to enjoy the open - as last Spring and Summer I morbidly spent in bed sick lonely and unhappy - Dr Dercum

is very attentive - as he wants to send me home absolutely well - Was very sorry indeed to learn that Aunt Mary has been so ill - but what a relief it must be to her and Grandmother to know she is under your careful watch - Give her my love and sympathy as no one can appreciate what sufferings meant more than I - It is getting late Mother dear so I must hurry as I want to get a letter out to Grandmother in the same mail as your letter - so will say good night - Give my love to Father and all - with a great big portion for yourself - believe me always -

Your loving son
Tom

Beatrice sends love